Vagaries of Fate Played Havoc With Many Boom Towns

Politics, Railroads and Treacherous Missouri River Wiped out Hopes of Promoters Of Nebraska Cities.

This is the tale of the "lost 300," Nebraska's vanished towns.

It is a story of blasted hopes, wrecked fortunes and weird and inexplicable vagaries of fate.

From the map of the state within the last 65 years more than 300 towns have disappeared, completely blotted out in a now obscure and murky past. Corn fields spread over land that might have been part of busy downtown sections of new metropolises of the west. Cattle graze on land that might have formed sites for towering office buildings. Submerged in the waters of the rambling Missouri river are building lots which real estate speculators battled to control in the early "boom days."

Natural progress, greed and trickery, geographical conditions and the wanderings of a shifty river are intermingled as causes which plunged the lost towns into oblivion.

Some were casualties of political battles of early day county seat wars. Legislatures changed the locations of county seats and towns became townsites without population.

River Blots Out Towns.

Some never were anything but "dream towns," laid out fanciffully on paper to decoy eastern capital into the pockets of pioneer western real estate promoters. The bubbles burst and investors were left sans cash, sans towns, but with a valuable new fund of experience in uncertainties attending barter in townsite fantasies and "bright prospects."

Many of the missing towns are now at the bottom of the wandering Missouri.

The river changed its channel one night and the residents of Omadi, one of the populous towns of territorial days, awoke the next morning to find town lots dropping into the swift current. Citizens hastily abandoned their houses or moved them onto farms in the uplands. The entire townsite had been gobbled up by the river within a year. Omadi was located almost opposite the present site of Sioux City, Ia.

Logan, a prosperous Decatur county town in the late '50s, was another victim of the Missouri. The river in one of its weird shifts of current began undermining the townsite. Five years later all the inhabitants had left and most of the buildings had slid into the river.

U. P. Chose Omaha.

Brilliant prospects for future growth of Decatur, Burt county, also were blighted by refusal of the Missouri to "stay put" in its channel. Decatur was once seriously considered as the point of crossing for the Union Pacific railroad. When the river showed signs of absorbing the townsite railroad officials shifted their plans and chose Omaha instead. The river current continued its encroachments and most of Decatur's old town lots are now under water.

Three other towns of pioneer importance because of being located at advantageous fording places on the river were chased into the uplands by changes in the current and died lingering deaths.

Among the more important of the pioneer "dream" towns which flourished on paper and loomed as great cities of the future in the minds of credulous investors was Little York, located on Goodson's island in the Missouri river opposite Nemaha county. It was blotted out one day when a river flood moved the island several hundred yards downstream.

Little York and other paper towns were born in the speculative periods preceding 1857 and 1873. Eastern capital clamored for investment in the west and the demand was met by creation of the "dream" towns under careful direction of unscrupulous real estate promoters, who reaped a rich harvest while money flowed to the west to "grow up with the country."

Politics Plays Part.

In Nebraska pioneer days selection of a town as a county seat was believed often with reason to insure the town's future prosperity and growth. This situation led to the founding of many towns on sites which seemed plausible as county seat locations. Through political "deals" and rival claims of several towns for county seat honors, founders of many of these early towns were disappointed. The county seats went elsewhere and the towns languished and in a few years disappeared.

An interesting story is told of snappy action by the pioneer residents of Osceola, county seat of Polk county, now located three miles from its original site. According to the story, citizens received a tip another townsite company was attempting to have the county seat located at the geographical center of the county. The Osceolans defeated the attempt by promptly moving their town the three miles to the county center.

Archer, former county seat of Richardson county, was blotted from the map by an early federal statute including it within bounds of a special reservation established for several score families of French half breeds. A party of French adventurers had been among the early settlers of Richardson county. They had married Indian squaws and reared large families.

When the special reservation was established for them, the white residents of Archer refused to continue to live within the reservation and Archer was abandoned.

Towns Along Old Trail.

Many of Nebraska's lost towns were located along the old overland trails and went out of existence along with the arrival of the railroads. In the days of their glory these towns dotted the routes of the old Mormon trail and the California trail blazed by miners who took part in the Pike's Peak gold rush.

The railroads also were responsible for vanishing of many other towns which had a mushroom growth for a few years. They disappeared when stations were designated by railroad officials, who often passed over existing towns in order to obtain the greater real estate profits incident to choosing entirely new townsites.

Some other of the pioneer towns have survived, but with the glamor and glory of early days much dimmed. Fort Calhoun, Washington county, site of the Lewis and Clark treaty with the Indians in 1804, was in the early '60s the county seat and a town of 1,200 persons. It was a contender for choice as capital when Nebraska territory became a state. Its prosperity lasted about seven years. When the railroads passed it by and the capital failed to come its way it dwindled into a hamlet.

Omaha Conquers Florence.

Fontenelle, another Washington county village, was at one time the flourishing county seat of Dodge county. The legislature changed the county lines one session and threw the town into Washington county, where it was overshadowed.

Omahans are familiar with the story of the rise and fall of Florence and Bellevue, both of which were at one time much larger than Omaha. For many years it was doubtful whether Florence or Omaha would win in the race for growth. Selection of Omaha as the site for the Union Pacific bridge across the Missouri turned the scales and Florence for several years was left almost a deserted village.

Judge's Ruling Puts End to Family Feud In Placid Evanston

Evanston, Ill., Nov. 13.—When Police Magistrate J. F. Boyer placed Lily Chocoloski under $200 peace bonds to conform to the "dignity and sanctity that abounds in placid Evanston" the domestic warfare of the Chocoloski-Kuzawinski-Kogognekiki families came to an end, and an armistice was signed in the communistic household of a thousand battles.

"A state of siege" had existed ever since the intermarried families had established their quarters, and hostilities were in vogue on the twenty-four-hour-a-day plan. First Lily would go over the top in a sweeping attack against the Anna Kuzawinski forces. Anna would rally and counter-attack, heavily reinforced with fruit and vegetables, to say nothing of sending over a barrage of eggs, with the result that the line of battle would suddenly swerve from the kitchen to the parlor, where the cohorts of Sophie Kogognekiki would charge forth in battle formation.

But with the action of Police Magistrate Boyer the "battle flat" has become the centre of peace and tranquility, and the erstwhile engaging forces have agreed on the following terms:

1—Not more than five can play the piano—common property—at one time.

2—Meals were to be eaten, and not used for barrage purposes.

3—All breeds of poultry, calves, etc., must bunk in their owners' apartments—privacy should be respected.

Howl of Gaunt Dog Told Of Death in Woman's Family

Chicago, Nov. 13.—A gaunt, dismal-faced hound slunk into the front yard at the residence of Mrs. R. Peavey, and began to howl.

"There is death in that howl," remarked Mrs. E. J. Bulgin of Portland, Ore., who is visiting the Peaveys. "Isn't it a frightful sound?"

Again the dog squatted on his haunches, threw back his head and howled.

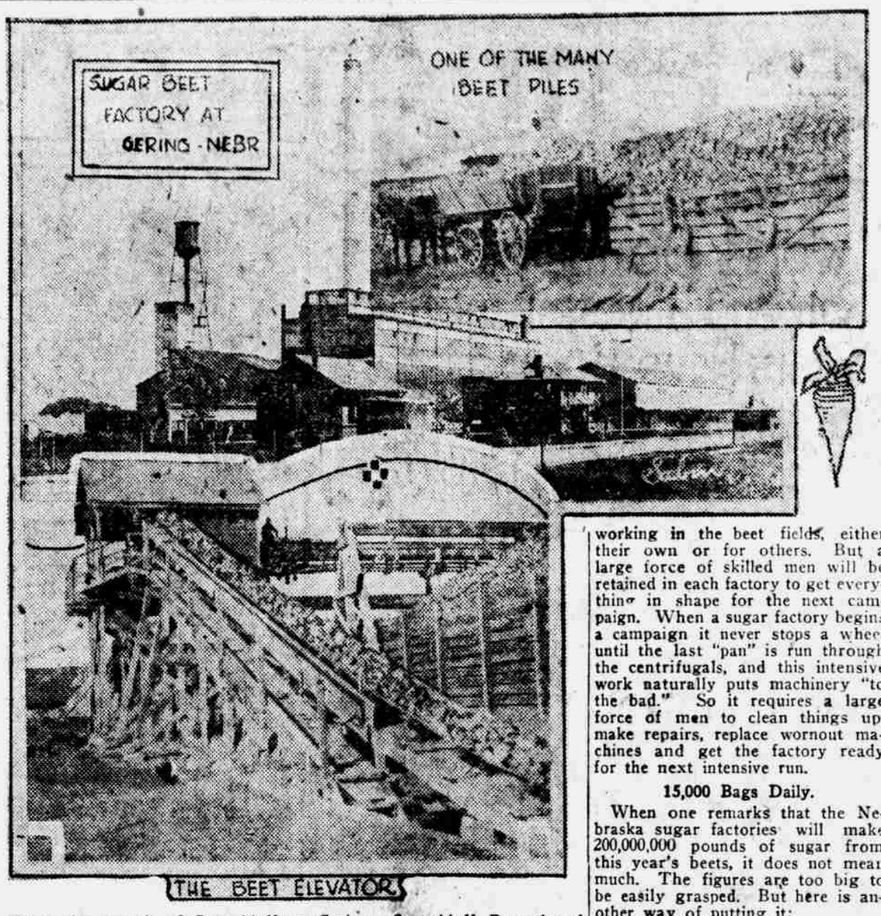
"It means that some one in my family is dead," and Mrs. Bulgin began to weep.

In vain her friends tried to comfort her and assure her that the howling of the dog meant nothing. She refused to be consoled, for deep in her heart she felt that death had come close to her.

The next day she received the following telegram from her husband in Portland: "Arthur shot and killed on hunting trip. Come home."

Arthur was Mrs. Bulgin's only son. She is now on her way west.

Scottsbluff Looks Down on Industrial Centers Where Beets Are Turned Into Sugar



From the summit of Scottsbluff, towering 4,666 feet above sea level, and the highest point in Nebraska, one may see Laramie peak, 165 miles to the west, and Chimney rock, 25 miles to the east, where the bend of the North Platte river around the end of the Wild Cat range of hills cuts off the view in that direction. From the summit of the mountain—for it is a mountain, and not a bluff—one may see nine prosperous little cities.

From the summit of this same mountain one may now see the smoke pouring from the stacks of four immense sugar factories. A year from now the number will have been increased to five, perhaps six.

On October 9, just 30 years ago, the first bag of sugar made in Nebraska came from the centrifugals of the factory at Grand Island. When the five sugar factories now in operation in Nebraska shall have completed their 1920-21 campaigns, nearly 200,000,000 pounds of Nebraska sugar will be on the market.

Eleven years ago this past summer, neither a ton of sugar beets was raised nor a pound of sugar produced in the North Platte valley. In 1910 the Great Western Sugar company began the erection of a sugar factory at Scottsbluff. It was a success from the start, and so profitable did the irrigation farmers of the valley find beef rasing to be that they soon compelled the sugar company to erect a factory at Gering. The Gering factory had its first campaign in 1917. That year the same company erected a factory at Bayard and it made its first campaign in 1918. Still the beets came rolling in, and the same company has just completed a factory at Mitchell, which is now making its first campaign.

7,000 Acres in Sugar Beets.

This year a fraction more than 70,000 acres of sugar beets were grown in the North Platte valley, every ton of which will be sliced and made into sugar in the factories at Gering, Scottsbluff, Bayard and Mitchell. The immensity of the sugar industry in the valley may be briefly set out in a few statistics.

Before the last day of the present year the Great Western Sugar Co. will have sliced 840,000 tons of sugar beets, for which the company will have paid the beet growers $12 a ton, or more than $10,080,000. In addition to this the beets growers will receive approximately $500,000 more for their beet tops. A sugar campaign lasts about 150 days. During the campaigns in its four Nebraska factories this year the Great Western Sugar Co. will pay upwards of $360,000 in wages to the men employed therein. When the campaign closes and sugar making ceases, most of the men will take a few weeks rest and then begin working in the beet fields, either their own or for others. But a large force of skilled men will be retained in each factory to get everything in shape for the next campaign. When a sugar factory begins a campaign it never stops a wheel until the last "pan" is run through the centrifugals, and this intensive work naturally puts machinery "to the bad." So it requires a large force of men to clean things up, make repairs, replace wornout machines and get the factory ready for the next intensive run.

15,000 Bags Daily.

When one remarks that the Nebraska sugar factories will make 200,000,000 pounds of sugar from this year's beets, it does not mean much. The figures are too big to be easily grasped. But here is another way of putting it:

Every 24 hours the five sugar factories in Nebraska are turning out about 15,000 bags of granulated sugar, each bag weighing 100 pounds.

The Gering, Mitchell and Bayard factories are 1,100-ton mills. That is, each one slices 1,100 tons of beets every 24 hours. The Scottsbluff factory is a 2,200-ton mill.

What the sugar industry is doing for the North Platte valley is readily seen in the population statistics. The sugar beet is responsible for the fact that Scottsbluff county gained 149 per cent in population during the last 10 years, and that's the record for Nebraska. During that same decade Scottsbluff gained 390 per cent, Gering 400 per cent, and Bayard broke all records by gaining a fraction over 900 per cent. during that same period irrigated farms in the valley increased from an average of $125 an acre to an average of $300 an acre, and land that will come under the New Gering and Fort Laramie project on the south side of the river in Scottsbluff county increased from an average of $20 an acre to an average of $120 an acre.

Trainloads of Beets.

The beet crop this year is the best in the history of the industry in the valley. Not only is the tonnage per acre the heaviest, but the "sugar content" is the highest. The weather has been remarkably fine during the harvest and another two weeks will see the beets all out of the ground, and either siloed for future delivery or piled in huge windows at the factories. Two freight crews are hauling beets by the trainload to the Gering factory every day. The same is true at Bayard. One crew is working at Mitchell and four crews are working at Scottsbluff. And in addition to this beet delivery from 350 to 400 wagonloads are driven over the scales at the big mill in Scottsbluff. And the men who drive these beet wagons draw the paltry wage of $10 a day and their board and washing! The beet toppers in the fields draw the same meager wage. Factory wages run from 53 cents to 90 cents an hour, eight-hour shifts, with foremen and subforemen drawing proportionately more.

The opening of the sugar campaign in the valley sure puts business to booming. The payment of more than $10,000,000 for beets inside of 60 days from October 1 puts a lot of money into circulation in business channels. This may explain why everybody, especially the merchants, are wearing broad smiles.

The only idle men in the valley are those who are either too lazy to work or able to live on their incomes.

Shows There Is a Chance.

Edward Blank mined coal in Illinois for a quarter of a century and saved up about $1,000. He came to the valley two years ago last spring and was persuaded to buy an "80" that will be under irrigation in another year. He agreed to pay $67.50 an acre, the thousand down and the balance on long time. He hired a man to break it out and seed it in wheat a year ago last month. Then he went back to the mines for the winter. Last July he came out to help harvest his wheat. He threshed 2,358 bushels from the "80" and sold it for $4,920. Breaking, seeding, harvesting, threshing and delivering to the elevator cost him $1,185, including his own wage at $8 a day for the time he was in the field. Now Mr. Blank is digging coal again, but it will be his last winter in the mines. He will own that "80" clear by next spring and the day the irrigation water is turned on it each and every acre of it will be worth $300.

Of course, Eddie Blank merely grins and walks on when he hears that old plaint, "There ain't no more chance no more a-tall for a poor man in this country."

Duelling in Mexico Once More Popular

Two Caballeros Nearly Pried Open Lid, But Police Interfered.

By LOUIS P. KIRBY.

Mexico City, Nov. 13.—Mexico's capital is threatened with a revival of duelling. But for the activities of the police several meetings would have been held on the field of honor during the past few days.

It is reported that a duel to the death between two young engineers, Vito Alessio Robles and Gonzalo E. Entile, had arranged for it when the police heard of the affair and stopped the duel by keeping constant watch, day and night, upon the two caballeros and also upon the two seconds, Samuel Reyes Retana and Leopoldo Villareal.

But that was not all. The police also watched two of the friends of the principals, Jesus Z. Moreoo and Senor Narvaez. This made it impossible for the duellists to communicate or meet without the presence of a gendarme.

It was reported that General Benjamin G. Hill, commander of the federal troops station in the vicinity of the capital, directed the steps taken to prevent the duel, but this was denied.

Walter Morosco, son of Oliver Morosco, the stage producer, has left the parental fold to cast his lot with the films. He will be in W. Christy Cabane's next picture.

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Aged, Wrinkled Faces Easily Rejuvenated

An aged face is often only a mask to a comparatively youthful person. Beneath is a countenance young and fair to look upon. It's a simple matter to remove the mask. Ordinary mercolized wax, to be had at any drug-store, gradually absorbs the worn-out surface skin; in a week or two the user has the loveliest pinky white complexion imaginable. An ounce of the wax usually is sufficient to complete the transformation. It is put on at night like cold cream and taken off in the morning with warm water.

This remarkable treatment is invariably effective, no matter how muddy, sallow or discolored the complexion. Freckles, moth-patches, liver spots, pimples, blackheads and other cutaneous blemishes, naturally vanish with the discarded skin.

To remove wrinkles and flabbiness, here is a recipe that cannot be to highly recommended: Powdered saxolite, one ounce; dissolved in witch hazel, one half pint. Use as a wash lotion.

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Tells How She Did It With a Home-Made Remedy.

Mrs. E. H. Boots, a well-known resident of Buchanan county, Iowa, who darkened her gray hair, made the following statement:

"Any lady or gentleman can darken their gray or faded hair and make it soft and glossy with this simple remedy, which they can mix at home. To half a pint of water add 1 ounce of bay rum, one small box of Barbo Compound and ¼ ounce of glycerine. These ingredients can be purchased at any drug store at very little cost. Apply to the hair every other day until the gray hair is darkened sufficiently. It does not color the scalp, is not greasy and does not rub off. It will make a gray-haired person look twenty years younger."

GIRLS! GIRLS! Clear Your Skin Save Your Hair WITH CUTICURA

Make these fragrant super-creamy emollients your every-day toilet preparations and have a clear sweet healthy skin and complexion, good hair and soft white hands, with little trouble and trifling expense. Absolutely nothing better, purer, sweeter at any price.

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Doctors Bickstein, Lewis, Smith, Lenahan, Sceery, Connor and Many Others Agree Bon-Opto Strengthens Eyesight 50 Per Cent. in One Week's Time in Many Instances.

New York.—At last the good news can be published which will bring joy and happiness to those who suffer from poor eyesight, weak, watery, inflamed, painful, itching, aching eyes. There is real hope for those who are ruining their eyes by wearing misfit glasses and thousands who wear glasses and think they fit because they see well will be able to throw them away and see better without them. Doctors throughout the country are rapidly taking up this Bon-Opto method of eye strength building and they enthusiastically indorse its principles and wonderful efficacy. Here we publish for the benefit of the public extracts from doctors' reports which must convince any reasonable person that Bon-Opto method is one of the greatest medical discoveries of modern times.

Doctor Lewis reports: "Just one five-grain tablet of Bon-Opto, which can be purchased at any drug store, dissolved in one-fourth glass of water and used freely as an eyewash two to four times daily sharpens the vision, relieves fatigue, congestion and inflammation. If you wear glasses, if you are a victim of aching, inflamed, tired or watery eyes there is hope for you if you follow the Bon-Opto method."

Doctor Lenahan reports: "I have thoroughly tried the Bon-Opto method in catarrhal conjunctivitis, blepharitis pannus, exophthalmic goitre and several other inflammatory conditions of the eye. In every case it has given eminently satisfactory results, and I feel justified in recommending it to the public and profession as a preparation of merit with a wide field of usefulness."

Doctor Sceery reports: "I have tried Bon-Opto method in a number of cases, and I can truthfully state that it is the very best treatment for the eyes I have ever used. It works more quickly than anything I have ever prescribed. The formula is an excellent one, and I am sure that when the public realizes what a wonderful remedy it is, and how essential eye-bathing is, Bon-Opto will be universally used."

Doctor Smith reports: "I have treated a number of serious opthalmic diseases with Bon-Opto method and it gives me great pleasure to report ultimate recovery in both acute and chronic cases. Mr. B. came to my office suffering with an infected eye. The seriousness of the condition was quite apparent and an operation for enucleation (the removal of a tumor) seemed imperative. Before resorting to the operative treatment I decided to ty Bon-Opto. In twenty-four hours the secretion had lessened, inflammatory symptoms began to subside and in seven days the eye was cured and retained its normal vision. The daily use of Bon-Opto will allay superorbital neuralgia, frontal headaches, bloodshot eyes, granular lids, feeling of sticks or sand in the eyes, blurred vision, vertigo, dizziness and excessive secretions of the lids or tear ducts."

Doctor Judkins reports: "Bon-Opto is a remarkable remedy for the cure and prevention of all ordinary eye disorders, its marvelous success in developing and strengthening the eyesight will soon make eyeglasses 'old-fashioned.'"

Doctor Connor reports: "Bon-Opto method has rendered a service little short of miraculous. I found my eyes remarkably strengthened, so much so I have laid aside my glasses without discomfort. Several of my colleagues have also tried it and we are agreed its results are astonishing. In a few days the eyes of an astigmatic case were so improved that glasses have been discarded by the patient."

Doctor Bickstein reports: "The remarkable results I have obtained from the use of Bon-Opto in my practice and upon myself cause me to feel that in justice to other eye sufferers I should acquaint the public with the really marvelous action of this splendid eye medicine. Case No. 3, J. W., age 43; expert accountant; complained of sore, irritated eyes. The lids felt gritty and heavy, especially at morning and night. His eyes were fitted with glasses, but no relief was obtained. I prescribed Bon-Opto. After one week's treatment he tells me he cannot recall when his eyes troubled him less."

And so the startling reports continue to come in. If you wear glasses, if you are bothered with poor vision, make up your mind to give Bon-Opto method a trial. You will be surprised and pleased with the quick results it gives. Even very old people find great comfort in the use of Bon-Opto. It is absolutely harmless, even to the most sensitive eyes. The formula is plainly printed on every package, and your own physician will tell you it is perfectly safe and pleasant to use. Its continued application will strengthen the eyesight and prevent many serious eye diseases which are liable to weaken the vision and may finally result in blindness. Do not permit anything, no matter how important, to cause you to neglect your eyes. Take care of them now before it is too late. Many hopelessly blind might have been saved if they had cared for their eyes in time.

NOTE.—A city physician to whom the above article was submitted said: "Bon-Opto is a remarkable, harmless remedy. Its constituent ingredients are well known to eminent eye specialists and widely prescribed by them. The manufacturers guarantee it to strengthen the eyesight 50 per cent. in one week's time in many instances or refund the money. This speaks for its efficacy. It is one of the very few preparations I feel should be kept on hand for regular use in almost every family." It is sold under a money refund guarantee by all good druggists, including Sherman & McConnell and the Melcher stores.

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Jiffy-Jell is a quick real-fruit dessert. The flavors are condensed fruit juice in liquid form in glass.

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Jiffy-Jell comes ready-sweetened. It comes acidulated with lemon or grape acid. Simply add boiling water, as directed on package, then the fruit essence from the vial, and let cool.

A package serves six in mold form, or 12 if you whip the jell. All for 15 cents—less than the fruit alone might cost.

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Get an assortment—have these fruity dainties on call. Then send us the trade-marks for attractive ways of serving.

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Lime-fruit flavor makes a tart green salad jell. Serve with the salad or make a salad loaf. Or mix in meat left-overs for a meat loaf. Mint flavor makes a mint jell to serve with roast meats, hot or cold.

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Buy Jiffy-Jell from your grocer. Cut out the (Jj) trade-marks in circle on front of package. Send us 6 for any pint mold or the set of Six Individual Molds. Send 2 for Jiffy-Cup or 2 and 10 cents for the spoon. The Pint Molds are as follows:

Style—B—Heart-shaped like Style 5 above.
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